

## ***THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY***

**June 2012 – Week 4**

**Air Date: June 17 – June 23 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: THE QUEDLINBURG AFFAIR**

JUNE 1990 AND IT'S A FIGHT OVER STOLEN TREASURE.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JUNE 18, 1990. DALLAS. IN 1945, U.S. ARMY LIEUTENANT JOE MEADOR WAS ORDERED TO GUARD A MINE SHAFT FULL OF ANCIENT ARTIFACTS FROM THE CHURCH IN QUEDLINBURG, GERMANY. SOON THE OBJECTS GO MISSING.

THE PRICELESS TREASURES INCLUDED HOLY RELIC BOXES, A FOUR HUNDRED YEAR OLD BOOK, AND BEJEWELED FLASKS.

FORTY-FIVE YEARS LATER, THE OBJECTS ARE TRACED TO THE NORTH TEXAS TOWN OF WHITEWRIGHT... LT. MEADOR'S HOMETOWN. APPARENTLY, MEADOR HAD STOLEN THE TREASURES AND SENT THEM HOME BY MILITARY MAIL. WHEN HE DIED, HIS FAMILY PUT THE TREASURES IN THE LOCAL BANK VAULT.

TODAY, THE QUEDLINBURG CHURCH SUES THE FAMILY FOR RETURN OF THE OBJECTS. AFTER YEARS IN COURT, THE CHURCH AGREES TO PAY OVER \$2 MILLION TO THE MEADOR FAMILY TO GET THE TREASURES BACK.

THE QUEDLINBURG AFFAIR WENT TO COURT 22 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Emily J. Sano, "QUEDLINBURG ART AFFAIR," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kjqem>), accessed June 07, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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